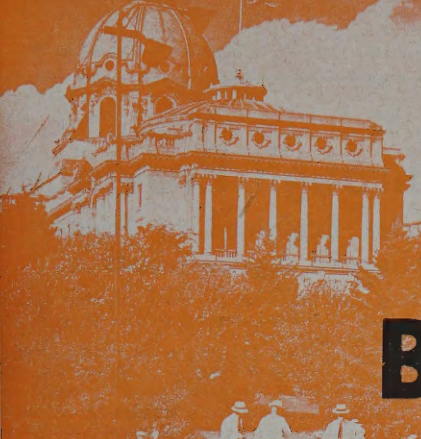




WITHIN OUR BORDERS

VOL. 1

EDMONTON, OCTOBER 15, 1948

No. 5

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Veterinary Branch

Cares For Stock

The Veterinary Services Branch of the Department of Agriculture is a co-ordinated organization concerned with certain phases of diseases contracted by stock and poultry. Laboratory diagnosis, administration, investigational work in disease outbreaks and educational work in prevention and control of disease are particular interests of the branch.

Director of the branch, Dr. E. E. Ballantyne, is a member of three national committees; one on Bang's Disease and mastitis in cattle, and two on diseases of poultry. A staff of three graduate veterinarians works under the director; two veterinary pathologists are engaged in laboratory work while a third, the extension veterinarian, serves in the field.

Heart of the branch is the veterinary laboratory in Edmonton. During 1940, the first year of operation, approximately 900 specimens were examined. In 1947 this number had risen to almost 3,000 and present facilities have proven inadequate.

To remedy this situation the Department of Agriculture is building a new laboratory on land adjacent to the University of Alberta farm. When completed it will be one of the finest in Canada.

Through an extension veterinarian the branch conducts considerable field work. Lectures in veterinary science are given at the University of Alberta and the schools of agriculture and talks on disease prevention and control are given at field days, agricultural short courses and conventions. ***

In error Dr. J. L. McPherson's name was included in the list of members of Alberta's legislature contained in the October issue of Within Our Borders.

Dr. McPherson retired at conclusion of the last legislature and the new member for the Bruce constituency is Mr. Earl Hardy, S.C., of Holden. Mr. Hardy's name was properly included in the list of members of the 11th legislature. The list can be corrected merely by the deletion of Dr. McPherson's name.

Department Ensures

Needs of Agriculture Served Well

Comprehensive Organization Promotes Wellbeing Of Alberta's Farming Industry

The Alberta Department of Agriculture serves the rural people of the Province through a number of branches, each concerned with a particular phase of the farming industry.

Practically every farmer in Alberta grows some kind of crop and therefore is connected with the Field Crops Branch. Function of this branch is to promote improvement programs and efficient cultural practices—administer crop protection legislation. Divisions handling crop improvement, soil conservation, weed and pest control and horticulture ensure fulfillment of the function.

The Live Stock Branch assists in maintaining quality of Alberta herds and flocks through various policies. These deal with cattle and swine improvement, live stock listing, calf clubs, artificial insemination and brood sow selection. Wherever possible the Dominion Government's program of establishing cattle tuberculosis restricted areas is assisted. Also included in work of the branch is administration of acts relating to stock inspection, brands, domestic animals and sale of horned cattle.

ADMINISTER DAIRY PROMOTION POLICIES

Alberta's dairy promotion policies are administered by the Dairy Branch through inspections in the field and laboratory diagnosis. In the field educational work by means of a cow testing service, short courses and other methods of instruction is carried on. Chemical and bacteriological analyses of dairy products and creamery water supplies are conducted in the laboratory at Edmonton. The branch also is responsible for the enforcement of prescribed standards in construction and sanitation practices required of dairy manufacturing, milk distributing and frozen food locker plants.

Higher egg and poultry meat production in Alberta has increased the work of the Poultry Branch. In addition to a comprehensive production program and operation of a modern demonstration and breeding plant at the Oliver farm, the branch enforces regulations concerning egg and poultry grading, conduct of hatcheries and blood testing for pullorum disease.

Alberta beekeepers are offered a variety of services by the Apiculture Branch. These range from research to grading and extension. The Bee Diseases Act, which requires registration of all beekeepers to facilitate inspections, is administered by this branch and an experimental apiary is operated at Oliver.

To bring a greater measure of scientific instruction and practical help to the farm population of the province the Agricultural Extension Service provides 36 District Agriculturists. These men work among the rural people assisting them with their many problems and carry to them the various departmental policies designed to improve the general standard of agricultural practises.

DIVISION AIDS RURAL WOMEN

Interests of farm women are handled by the Women's Division of the extension service. Twelve District Home Economists have the task of providing a comprehensive service in home economy to meet the needs of homemakers in rural areas. To further aid in raising the standard of living for rural women, specialists on nutrition and home designing recently have been added to the staff.

Two-year courses in agriculture and home economics are offered farm youth by schools of agriculture at Olds and Vermilion. In addition seasonal short courses are conducted at selected country points. Purpose of all the courses is to provide instruction and practical application of the principles underlying successful farming and homemaking.

To discover types of fruits and ornamentals likely to thrive in Alberta climatic conditions the Department of Agriculture maintains a Horticultural Station at Brooks, in the southern section of the Province. There, selected varieties are propagated for distribution throughout the Province. In the years it has operated the station has developed hundreds of varieties of shrubs and fruits particularly suited to Alberta's climate.

Since 1943 an Office of Agricultural Information has made available to personnel of the Department, data pertaining to the science, practise and possibilities of agriculture in Alberta.

Agriculture is important directly or indirectly to every person in Alberta and on its success is largely dependent the prosperity of the Province. Through the activities of the above branches, the Department of Agriculture is seeking to improve the position of every farmer in the Province. That efforts have been successful is verified by the fact that rural standards of living have improved just as income from agricultural activities has increased over the years. ***

Schools of Agriculture

Aid Rural Youth

Alberta's Department of Agriculture at present operates two schools of agriculture and home economics and shortly will begin construction of a third.

Purpose of the schools is to provide educational opportunity for farm young people which will fit them for their future calling as farmers and homemakers. With this in mind standards of entrance are maintained at a level which permits the greatest possible number to take advantage of the training offered.

Olds, in the south-central section of the Province, and Vermilion, in the northeast-central area, are sites of the present schools which were established in 1913. Since that time approximately nine thousand young men and women have taken courses.

Each school provides dormitory facilities and laboratory and classroom space for instructional work in branches of agriculture such as field crops, live stock, general science, farm mechanics, carpentry and dairying; also for home economics classes including cooking, sewing, laundering, home nursing and handicrafts.

POPULAR BREEDS

Both schools operate well-equipped farms in connection. Live stock includes some of the more popular breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine and this stock is available for class work with students. Limited acreages are devoted to demonstration of varieties of cereals, forage crops and tree and bush fruits best suited to Alberta's climatic conditions.

Objective of the schools is achieved through a two-fold program of instruction in, and practical application of, approved methods of agriculture and home economics. The regular course covers a period of two terms, each of six months duration, opening in October and closing in early April.

Aim of the course in agriculture is to provide training which will enable the student to meet practical farm problems successfully. Special emphasis is laid on the work of animal and field husbandry and farm mechanics including actual practice in carpentry, metal work and repair of farm machinery.

The home economics course, placing emphasis on cooking, sewing, household administration, home nursing and laundering is planned primarily for girls intending to become homemakers—the largest and most important vocation of women. ***

Alberta has more than 9,000 beekeepers, who this year will market honey estimated at 10,000,000 pounds.



YES, IT'S A GOOD SAMPLE . . .



SEE, THIS IS GRAY-WOODED SOIL . . .



THE D.A. TAKES AN ORDER FOR FERTILIZER . . .



NO WILD OATS HERE . . .

D.A. Service

Extends Through Province

Department Policies Explained to Farmers
By 36 Experienced Agriculturists

The shrill ringing of an alarm clock shattered the early morning silence. Rubbing the sleep from his eyes Bert Whitbread stepped into his slippers and started preparing for the busy day ahead.

He switched on the radio to hear the news while he shaved. Immediately following the news he heard the announcer say, "This is the early morning farm broadcast, brought to you as a daily service of this station." Whitbread paused as he dried his razor. "Feature of this morning's broadcast," continued the announcer, "is the story of Alberta's District Agriculturists." Whitbread walked over to turn the radio up as he commenced dressing. The announcer went on . . .

"To get an accurate picture of the work being done by District Agriculturists, or D.A.'s as they usually are called, your announcer spent several days in the field with B. J. Whitbread, District Agriculturist for Stony Plain and Strathcona, the municipalities bordering on Edmonton. We were on the road by 8:30 and as we drove I learned that . . ."

Bert Whitbread and the 35 other D.A.'s employed by the Alberta Department of Agriculture are university graduates. They hold the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Between 30 and 65 years of age, most of them were raised on farms and all have had practical experience equivalent to at least five years of actual farming. Their services are free and used extensively.

Whitbread is well qualified for the work he has to do. He has been with the Department of Agriculture in different capacities for almost 30 years. After graduating from the University of Alberta he operated the Vermilion experimental farm for three years and the farm at Claresholm for one summer. In the early days of his career he taught at the provincial schools of agriculture at Vermilion and Olds. When the Vermilion school closed temporarily in 1933 he spent two years assisting in the fight against grasshoppers plaguing the Province, and distributing live stock feed in the drought areas. He has been a full-time D.A. since 1935 serving out of Stettler, Claresholm, and Calgary. With Edmonton as headquarters, Whitbread now serves some 2,800 farmers living in an area of approximately 2,000 square miles.

The D.A. service was inaugurated in 1916 with a part-time staff of five men stationed in the central part of the Province. There had been some type of D.A. work from the time the provincial schools of agriculture opened at Olds, Vermilion and Claresholm in 1913. When confronted with problems on which they needed expert advice farmers could consult with the staffs of these schools. In most cases the assistance given was of an advisory nature. Even after the service was inaugurated, in the early days when D.A.'s were few and far between, Whitbread as operator of a provincial experimental farm and school of agriculture instructor was frequently called upon to help local farmers overcome their difficulties.

"As the city disappeared behind and the rolling hills of the country appeared, Mr. Whitbread said of the two main parts of a D.A.'s work, he preferred that in the country . . ."

Office and field work are the two categories into which work of a D.A. normally falls. Whitbread spends about 50 percent of his time at his office in the Alberta Jasper Building in Edmonton. There he handles a considerable amount of correspondence, arranges meetings, draws up various club and extension programs and deals with the miscellaneous paper work which arises from day to day. Interviews with farmers and other persons are usually conducted during periods spent in the office. When the weather is inclement and roads impassable the D.A. works full time at the office. He utilizes the opportunity to plan future activities, draw up crop rotation schedules for the farmers who have requested them and attend to matters concerning other branches of the Department of Agriculture.

By way of experiment this year Whitbread has made a practise of spending every Thursday in Stony Plain. This gives farmers in that district a definite time each week when they can be certain of seeing the D.A. While in Stony Plain the D.A. handles any executive work pertinent to activities in that area. In the event that demands on his time in the town proper are light, he endeavors to leave in the latter part of the day and make calls further to the west. By also spending Friday on the road in the district Whitbread ensures that the needs of the farmers in the municipality are promptly and adequately dealt with.

"The D.A.'s first call was to arrange a meeting of young people interested in forming a Junior Calf Club . . ."

Although the Department of Agriculture employs a Supervisor of Junior Activities and Youth Training, the D.A. is responsible for the organization and supervision of young people's clubs in his territory.

The actual formation of a junior club usually takes place when parents of farm young people interested in belonging to such a club contact the D.A. and ask his help in organizing. The D.A. obtains a list of the persons who might become members of the proposed group and contacts their parents to ascertain the exact amount of support which can be expected from the adults in the district. A meeting of all interested persons is then arranged. At the meeting the D.A. addresses the young people, explaining the purpose of junior clubs, the regulations which must be conformed with and the benefits to be derived from membership in such an organization.

Through the medium of junior clubs the D.A. is able to teach the farmers of the future what is desirable in live stock and grain. In the case of calf clubs the purpose is to improve the strain of beef and dairy cattle in the Province. The members learn to cull poor stock from the herds and select that which will in future years result in live stock possessing high qualities for yield and marketing. Junior grain clubs promote interest in the use of approved commercial and registered seed, encourage eradication or control of noxious weeds which would impair yield and purity and generally teach the methods of obtaining high, quality production.

"About 10 o'clock we turned off the well-graded municipal road and bumped along a newly-cleared trail to visit a man opening up a farm in an area which a few months before had been heavily covered with brush . . ."

Being situated in a district which has been extensively farmed for many years, Whitbread receives few requests for assistance in laying out new farms. Occasionally though, his advice is sought and he tackles the problem with gusto. Backed by the knowledge acquired in his years of actual farming and operating the provincial experimental stations, Whitbread is able to save the farmer much time, trouble and discouragement. He shows him where to place his buildings to obtain the greatest advantage from natural windbreaks and water supply, how much tree cover to leave for shelterbelts against soil erosion, what size to make the fields and many other things which result in more convenient and productive farm.

"None of the land is hopeless unless strongly alkaline and most dirt is, or can be developed into, 'pay dirt' according to Mr. Whitbread . . ."

Anything in constant use wears out and soil is no exception. When production from a farm which has been yielding good crops decreases for no apparent reason the farmer becomes worried and Whitbread is called upon once more. Most of the land in Whitbread's territory has been farmed for the past 25 to 50 years and much of it is now becoming depleted. When this happens the yield drops, the grain harvested is low grade and only weeds thrive on the land. To restore the fertility of such land Whitbread advises use of farm manure, commercial fertilizer, leguminous crops or a combination of the three. In addition he suggests killing of annual weeds in the spring and perennials in the fall.

"Shortly before lunch we stopped to inspect an experimental plot being supervised by the D.A. . . ."

Realizing that improved crops will result in greater income for the farm population and indirectly in a higher standard of living all 'round, Whitbread spends a good deal of his time promoting improvement of both grain and forage crops. At meetings and field days, in fact at every opportunity, he emphasizes the value of using good commercial or registered seed.

Farmers are told not only what seed is best but also how and where it may be obtained at reasonable prices. Eradication of noxious weeds also is stressed as a sure way of improving crops and at present efforts centre around rotation of legume crops to control wild oats. Good rich soil is almost certain to result in better crops and farmers are discovering the value of legumes for soil enrichment. Utilizing experimental plots Whitbread has proven to many that only the legume type of crop accomplishes so much in one operation. In addition to producing valuable seed and forage crops, legumes do a great amount of underground work. They restore nitrogen and necessary organic matter and build up the fibre content which in turn contributes measurably in preventing soil erosion.

"We visited a man busy preparing to ship a prize bull to the United States where it will be used to build up the herd of a prominent American stock man . . ."

Live stock improvement also comes in for considerable attention from the D.A.'s. At every opportunity Whitbread promotes the better sire policy of the Department of Agriculture and stresses the selection of good females and proper feeding as the most certain methods of obtaining results.

When requested Whitbread assists groups which are planning to hold stock sales. His assistance in most cases is of an advisory nature and he rarely takes an active part in the sale. Being a recognized authority on live stock, however he is frequently consulted by farmers buying new stock to supplement and improve their herds. Working in close touch with the veterinary branch, Whitbread informs farmers of the services and vaccines available for the protection of their stock. Some work is also done with regard to arranging vaccinations, tuberculin testing and spraying.

"One afternoon we called on a farmer who is a member of the Agricultural Service Board in his municipality . . ."

Whitbread represents the Department of Agriculture on both Agricultural Service Boards operating in his territory. These boards are composed of two men from the municipal council, two farmers and the D.A. One of the chief duties of these boards is to supervise the eradication or control of noxious weeds in the municipality. Working on the premise that weed-free municipality can only be achieved if every farm in it is kept clean, the board endeavors to bring about such a state.

"Between the many stops made during the time I spent with Mr. Whitbread he told me something of the many other phases of his work . . ."

Further to the activities of the Agricultural Service Boards, small farmer group meetings are held in schoolhouses and community halls during the winter months. At these meetings reports of their summer activities are presented by the field supervisors, problems affecting the welfare of the municipality are discussed and illustrated lectures are given by the D.A.

Farm management, the planning of fields, crops, tillage and live stock and the recording of these things, is becoming increasingly important in these days of mechanized, high production farming. At present interest is low but as it grows Whitbread will be called upon to assist in setting up simple, accurate systems of cost accounting for the various departments of the farms.

In handling youth training and farm labor the Alberta Department of Agriculture works in close co-operation with the similar body of the senior government. The D.A. is largely responsible for arranging agricultural short courses and assists extensively at junior camps and rallies. He arranges for exchange of harvest help between eastern and western Canada and has jurisdiction over the placement of all D.P. workers in his territory.

"In addition to their numerous regular duties many of the D.A.'s find time to promote miscellaneous projects designed to improve the standing of agriculture in their districts and the Province generally . . ."

Whitbread's particular project is a "save-the-soil" campaign which he is operating in conjunction with a fellow D.A. also serving municipalities close to Edmonton. It is sponsored jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the agricultural section of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce. By encouraging farmers to work their land in a definite rotation, keep live stock, maintain the fertility of the soil through use of fertilizers and legumes, and follow a year-round weed eradication program Whitbread is endeavoring to introduce a more stable type of agriculture. He believes that by following such a system the farmers will be able to avoid total loss in years when adverse conditions cause crop failures. * * *



D.A.'s SUPERVISE JUNIOR CALF CLUBS . . .



THE D.A. EXAMINES NEWLY-HARVESTED CLOVER SEED . . .



POULTRY MEN ALSO ARE ASSISTED BY THE D.A.'s . . .



THE D.A. TALKS TURKEY . . .



DRESSMAKING RECEIVES CLOSE ATTENTION . . .

LECTURES TOO . . .

NOW FOR ACTUAL PRACTISE . . .

Wide Variety Services For Alberta Women

Rural Homes Prime Interest of District Home Economist Program

Alberta's Women's Extension Service is an important section of the Department of Agriculture.

The women of the extension service, together with their field workers—the District Home Economists—are helping to make life a little happier and easier in the farm homes of the Province. As a result of their advice and assistance, there are many brighter and better homes here today. And incidentally, here is another "First" for Alberta, this Province leads all others in the provision of this service.

To get the general picture, let's start at the head office in the Legislative Building at Edmonton. Headquarter's staff consists of a supervisor in charge of the service assisted by a Supervisor of Girls' Clubs, a Nutrition Specialist and a Home Designing Specialist.

In the field, living in the districts to serve, there are 12 full-time District Home Economists, each responsible for a large territory around her district headquarters. Close liaison is maintained between headquarters staff and field workers. The former provides the broad outline of the extension program, and the latter adjust it to the needs of any special area within their respective districts.

COVER LARGE TERRITORY

The area covered by each Home Economist is roughly the same as that covered by three District Agriculturists. From this it is easy to see that she has little spare time on her hands. Out all hours of the day or night, plowing through snow in winter and mud or dust in summer, there are few tasks too great for the District Home Economists. There's a Homemakers' Clinic being held in a community some twenty or thirty miles away, and the farm women gathered from the district are depending on her to be there. The bus may not run on schedule, but the D.A. may be going in the same direction. It may be miles from usual methods of transportation, but she'll get there somehow, even if she has to lug her heavy equipment cases on foot and resort to hitch-hiking.

Homemakers' Clinics are becoming increasingly popular with the housewives and the D.H.E.'s. Lasting from one to three days they give the latter an opportunity to demonstrate the latest in pickle recipes or home decorating hints. The homemakers themselves take part by working on their own material and solving their own problems under the supervision of the Home Economist.

Alberta's District Home Economists—all university graduates, and usually with previous experience in farm living—lead busy lives, but happy ones. "It's hard work, but it's fun," they will tell you. "You meet so many interesting, eager people, all looking for help or anxious to give it. Making friends and knowing that your efforts are bringing a little more comfort to homes throughout the

Province—these things more than compensate for the disadvantages we have to accept."

ASSIST IN MANY WAYS

Just how can District Home Economists help you? That's a fair question, and the answer applies whether you live in a rural community or in a large urban centre. They are happy at all times to discuss your individual home problems. If you want to get together with a few of your neighbors to chat about homemaking, the District Home Economist will have some new ideas to contribute to the discussion. Perhaps you belong to a women's organization, and you want a guest speaker. Your Home Economist can help you. Home planning and decorating, feeding the family, sewing and dressmaking, budget-stretching and even family relationships . . . all these are subjects in which the Home Economist is interested.

Perhaps the young girls in the neighborhood would like to organize a girls' club? Why not? All young girls will be homemakers some day, and by starting now they will have expert help with organization and program—from the District Home Economist.

Another field of activity which has been broached during the past few years is calling on war-brides and newcomers to the district. These people need to be made welcome. They may have problems which are bothering them. The D.H.E. does all in her power to help newcomers become adjusted to their surroundings. Problems are discussed, and the services of the Department are explained. There may be a local women's organization to join, or a number of other ways to get the newcomers started right and on the way to happier living in the community.

WORK BEGAN IN 1906

Highlights in the history of women's extension work can be traced back to 1906, for in that year somebody conducted instructional work at fairs held in a centre or two throughout the Province. The setting was in a tent, but it is easy to imagine

the interest among the women of that far away time. That was a beginning, however feeble it appears now, and according to the records, was all that happened for six years. In 1912, however, four short courses of one week's duration were offered; and at each judging competitions were held with prizes for efficiency.

Men played the predominant part in those early years, but in 1913, the women themselves took over, organizing a system of women's institutes or clubs whose aim was "to promote the ideals of home and best standards of community life." Lectures and demonstrations were given, and prizes were offered for the best essays. That same year three schools of agriculture were established. Aside from their regular programs these institutions have continued to play an important role in educating rural youth, an older people through short courses carried on during the summer.

Women's work gathered momentum through the years that followed. With the organization of the Alberta Women's Institute and the U.F.W.A., much of the program was carried on through the locals of these organizations. In 1924 the Department of Agriculture organized a Home Service Bureau and an exhibit was sent to the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto. It was not until four years later, however, that the first district worker was appointed.

PRESENT SET-UP SINCE 1939

The beginnings of the organization as it exists today date from 1939. The following year, the present Supervisor of Women's Extension joined the service, and a few demonstrators were stationed in various districts during the summer months. Farm and Home Weeks were held at the schools of agriculture, and during the winter correspondence courses were taken by 4,200 members of women's organizations. As demands for the service increased, the staff was enlarged. The Supervisor of Girls' Clubs was appointed in 1943, and the first permanent District Home Economist appointed to serve the Stettler district the following year. The number of District Home Economists was increased to five during 1944, and in 1945 a Nutrition Specialist was appointed. The Home Designing Specialist was added to the staff early in 1946.

Women's Extension Branch with its District Home Economists is providing a highly essential service to the women of Alberta. The man of the house is the bread-winner, but the woman is the homemaker, and with her task becoming increasingly difficult due to rising prices, she needs all the advice and help she can get. How can she make that dollar go further? Can she make those old clothes last a little longer? Let's see, what can be made from those feed sacks that will add a touch of brightness and comfort to the home? How do you make rugs from materials which would be useless otherwise? Maybe there's a way to make the school lunch more appetizing and nutritious.

And again, how about getting some expert advice on petit point or fine embroidery. Or it could be the proper arrangement of doors and windows, working surface heights and storage space in a new kitchen. In a word . . . name anything connected with the home, and you have the broad scope of the work of the District Home Economist.

They're here to stay, bringing to the people of Alberta a service which will expand as time goes on—making home life a little brighter, happier and easier throughout the Province. * * *

Home Planning Service Offered

Twice delayed, by the depression of the 30's and the wartime restrictions on materials, Alberta's farm building program is expanding rapidly in the present era of comparative prosperity.

In every corner of Alberta, new and remodelled farm homes have appeared. The disappointments were many, and it was painfully realized that there was a great dearth of information on farm home planning and building. The need for specialized farm home designers was acutely felt.

For many years city home plans had been used and changed to accommodate the many and varied activities which are necessarily carried on in the farm home. This scheme proved not only unsuccessful but heart-breaking to the hard-working rural woman whose home is her place of business. It was at this point that the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Extension Service Branch, extended a helping hand. They provided a service whereby rural people might receive help and advice in planning and building homes to suit their particular needs.

This work was taken over by a new branch of the extension service. A Home Designing Specialist, with training in architecture, building construction and home planning, was appointed to head the work.

The work of the Home Designing Specialist in the field of home planning and building parallels that of the specialist in the field of nutrition, the Girls' Club Leader and the Agricultural Engineer.

The new branch aims at planning rural homes for easier and more successful living. This is to be accomplished through such methods as short courses, home study groups, illustrated lectures, bulletins and a plan service.

The Home Designing Service has been organized to help farm people in all their building problems. It is prepared to give expert advice on design, decoration, planning for greater comfort and convenience in every room of the house. Rural residents who are contemplating the construction of new homes are invited to take advantage of this new service. * * *

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